

New record of the land snail *Allopeas gracilis* (Hutton, 1834) (Gastropoda: Subulinidae) from Basrah area, Iraq

Murtada D. Naser

Department of marine biology, Marine Science Centre, University of Basrah, Iraq

Abstract

Allopeas gracilis is recorded for the first time in southern Iraq. It was collected from two localities (Abu-Al Khaseeb region and Hareer region) from Basrah city.

الخلاصة

ثمان وعشرون عينة من القواقع الارضي *Allopeas gracilis* تم جمعها من منطقة ابو الخصب و منطقة حرير، مدينة البصرة خلال شهر نيسان 2008 واذار 2008 على التوالي. يعتبر هذا التسجيل الثالث من القواقع الارضية من مدينة البصرة بعد *Monacha obstructa* (Pfeiffer, 1842) و *Xeropicta mesopotamica* (Mousson, 1874). ويعتبر النوع *Allopeas gracilis* من الانواع الواسعة الانتشار في شبه الجزيرة العربية.

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Keywords: *Allopeas Gracilis*; Abu-Alkhaseeb; Hareer Region, Basrah City.

1. Introduction

Little is known about the land snails of Iraq. Most of our present knowledge is based on old literature (Pallary, 1939; Germain, 1921; Biggs, 1959; Najim, 1959). As far as southern Iraq is concerned, very limited studies addressed the land snails of this area, however, recent studies recorded additional two species to Basrah area (Abdul-Sahib 2005; Al-Khafaji, 2009). Neubert (1998) presented an outstanding monograph on the freshwater and land snails of the Arabian Peninsula, where 70 species of land snails recorded.

Allopeas gracilis is a neotropical species with a wide distribution in the Indopacific area. This species was perhaps introduced to the Arabian Peninsula through human activities and now known from different parts of Arabian Peninsula including Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman (Neubert, 1998).

The present study reports *Allopeas gracilis* from Basrah area for the first time, and adds a new record for the land snails of Iraq.

2. Materials and methods

Twenty eight specimens of the land snail *Allopeas gracilis* were collected from Hareer region (30°34'43.52"N

47°44'3.93"E) and Abu-Al Khaseeb region (30°28'17.51"N 47°53'39.59"E) during March 2008 and April 2008, respectively. Specimens were deposited in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and (Naturhistorisches Museum der Burgergemeinde Bern, Switzerland). Measurements of shells, height, width, aperture height and aperture width.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Shell description

Conical elongated slender opaque shell (Fig. 1). The shell consists of 6 whorls, maximum length 7.7 mm and 3.0 mm width. The protoconch is dome-shaped and smooth within the first whorl, but sutural crenulation starts with the second protoconch whorl. The teleconch whorls are evenly rounded with a deep suture which is crenulated by minute papillae. The surface of the whorls is covered by fine and dense axial striae which are curved suprasaturally. The aperture is oval and lacks any dentition. The columella is straight and somewhat thickened. The umbilicus is closed.

3.2. Measurements (n=8)

Shell height (X=7.17, SD=0.426), shell width (X=2.78, SD=0.164), aperture height (X=2.11, SD=0.339), aperture width (X=1.037, SD=0.176)

* Corresponding author. author@institute.xxx .

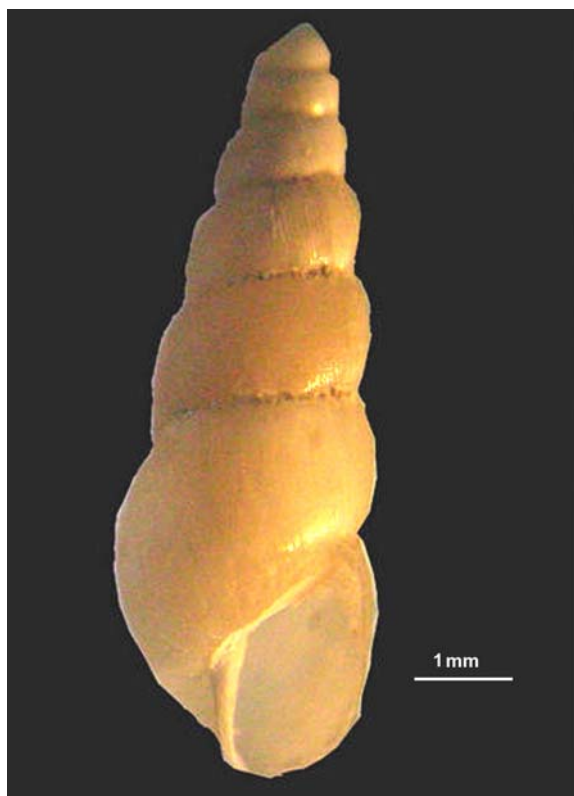


Fig. 1 *Allopeas gracilis*

4. Distribution and habitats

Allopeas gracilis is the third new record of the land snails in Basrah, after *Monacha obstructa* (Abdul-Sahib, 2005) and *Xeropicta mesopotamica* (Al-Khafaji, 2009). *Allopeas gracilis* is collected from Basrah city, Abu-AlKhaseeb region and Hareer region both regions are rural which lie at the Shatt Al- Arab river, agricultural nature, many different types of vegetables are grown there in wide distance areas, irrigated by the water of Shatt Al- Arab.

Both living and Shells of *Allopeas gracilis* were collected directly on the soil of the farms and the grasses herbous plants, closely to the Shatt Al- Arab . In the Hareer region *Allopeas gracilis* is associated with the landsnail *Xeropicta mesopotamica* . Neubert (1998) listed this species from Saudi Arabia , Yemen and Oman from different habitats.

5. Conclusion

The finding of *A. gracilis* is not surprising to our region since the species is widely distributed in the Arabian Peninsula, and due to the fact that this species can easily distributed by human activities. One more reason, the climate in the Arabian Peninsula is similar to southern Iraq, where as humidity dominates Basrah area. The present record adds to the land snail fauna of Iraq.

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